

**MEETING MINUTES of the
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
North Front Range Transportation and Air Quality Planning Council
Hybrid Meeting
October 18, 2023
1:00 – 2:08 p.m.**

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Eric Tracy, Chair – Larimer County
Mark Oberschmidt, Vice Chair – Evans
Brad Buckman – Fort Collins
Aaron Bustow – FHWA
Eric Fuhrman – Timnath
Nicole Hahn – Loveland
Omar Herrera – Windsor
Tawn Hillenbrand – Berthoud
Bhooshan Karnik – Greeley
Pepper McClenahan – Milliken
Tom Moore – RAQC
Elizabeth Relford – Weld County
Shani Porter - Severance
Josie Thomas - CDOT

NFRMPO STAFF:

Brooke Bettolo
AnnaRose Cunningham
Alex Gordon
Becky Karasko
Suzette Mallette
Jerome Rouser
Michael Saunders
Cory Schmitt

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tracy called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2023 TAC MINUTES

Oberschmidt moved to approve the September 20, 2023 TAC Minutes. Buckman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:

Emma Belmont – FTA
Rick Coffin – CDPHE-APCD
Jason Elkins – Johnstown
Wesley LeVanchy – Eaton
Town of Garden City
Town of LaSalle

IN ATTENDANCE:

Alex Donaldson – Loveland
Caleb Feaver – Fox Tuttle
Candice Folkers – COLT
Myron Hora - Uliteg
Tamara Keefe – FHU
Will Keenan – FHWA
Joshua Ma – Fort Collins
Dee McIntosh – CDOT
Justin Stone – Timnath

AIR QUALITY AGENDA

Regional Air Quality Updates – Moore reviewed the results of the 2023 ozone season, stating 2023 was a moderate season with 27 action alert days, 10 of which exceeded the 75ppb standard, and 17 of which exceeded the 70 ppb standard. Karasko stated FHWA provided a conformity determination for the 2050 RTP on October 11, 2023. The Conformity Determination for the FY2024-2027 TIP is expected to be provided in the following weeks.

CONSENT AGENDA

No items this month.

ACTION ITEMS

FY2023 TIP Delay Review – Cunningham reviewed the FY2023 TIP Delay Review. Relford approved the FY2023 TIP Delay review, granting a first extension to the 14 projects requesting a first extension, and recommending Planning Council approve a second extension for the three projects experiencing a second delay. Oberschmidt seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

October 2023 Off-Cycle TIP Amendment – Cunningham reviewed the October Off-Cycle Amendment to the FY2023-2026 TIP requested by CDOT which included adding one new project to the TIP. Public comment opened on October 3, 2023, and will close on November 2, 2023. Relford recommended Planning Council approve the September 2023 TIP Amendment to the FY2023-2026 TIP. Buckman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

2023 Ozone Season - Moore presented during the Air Quality Report.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

William Neal/Ziegler Intersection Improvements Scope Change – Cunningham reviewed the process for TIP project scope changes, requesting the TAC determine if the scope change was minor or major. Buckman stated the *William Neal/Ziegler Intersection Improvements* project was awarded FY2024-2025 Transportation Alternatives (TA) funds in early 2023. The project scope included local overmatch to build a connection to the Poudre River Trail. Fort Collins is requesting the removal of the trail connection and associated local overmatch to be completed as part of a separate developer project. Due to the project continuing to meet the parameters of the federal funding program and the request to remove overmatch not impacting federal requirements, Tracy suggested that the request should be considered minor. Buckman reiterated the full original scope of the project will be completed, but separating the project would help with efficiency of utilizing the federal funds. TAC discussed and determined the scope change was minor and may be completed by NFRMPO staff through an Administrative Modification to the TIP.

Transportation Projects Lessons Learned – Oberschmidt reviewed several lessons learned in completing transportation projects at the municipal level including planning, funding, engineering, construction, scheduling, and coordination. Relford provided insight on when contractors underdeliver, noted acting sooner rather than later is recommended, and noted CDOT provides resources on contractors. Relford asked CDOT if they have utilized progressive design build in any recent projects, and Thomas noted she and her team were not aware of any. TAC members provided input on lessons learned from various local agencies and requested lessons learned discussions be part of future TAC agendas. Karasko noted Bryce Reeves with CDOT Region 4 will be presenting at the November TAC meeting about the update to their Local Agency Handbook.

2023 Fare Free Summer – Karasko presented an overview of the outcomes of the 2023 fare free summer initiative for the three regional transit providers, noting all three agencies experienced an increase in ridership over the summer. CASTA provided a statewide update which showed the trend was seen across the state. Donaldson asked if the funding program will be continued in future years. Karasko stated the funding will continue to be available annually.

OUTSIDE PARTNERS REPORTS

NoCo Bike & Ped Collaborative – Written report provided.

Regional Transit Updates – None this month.

Mobility Updates – Bettolo stated RideNoCo is continuing the process on TDS Transactional Data Specifications (TDS) will assist in scheduling across transportation service providers.

REPORTS

October Planning Council Meeting Summary Draft – Written report provided.

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Summary - Written report provided.

Mobility Committee Updates – Written report provided.

Q3 2023 TIP Modifications - Written report provided.

CDOT Inactives Report - Written report provided.

ROUNDTABLE

Rouser stated the Safe Routes toSchool survey has been sent to various stakeholders across the region including TAC and school district contacts. Rouser encouraged the survey be forwarded to any other interested parties.

Gordon stated HDR has been hired for LinkNoCo Phase 2, and the RFP was released for the US34 TMO project and will be open through December 1.

Hahn stated the Connect Loveland project is set to be approved by the Planning Commission on Monday, October 23 and that Loveland is hiring engineers.

Porter introduced herself as the new TAC representative for the town of Severance.

Cunningham reminded TAC final scores for the Call for Projects are due on October 31, and the Scoring Committee will be held on November 1 at the Windsor Recreation Center.

Furhman stated Timnath is finalizing their Transportation Master Plan and will hold an open house on November 2.

Buckman stated the Fort Collins Land Use Code was adopted and will allow for more housing diversification.

Karasko outlined a data request the NFRMPO received from HDR on behalf of the Front Range Passenger Rail District for planned or proposed rail-related projects and requested TAC send any relevant projects to her by Friday, October 27.

Relford provided an update on the Via project which has had 21 new registered riders and highest utilization in Johnstown. Weld County has hired WW Clyde as the new contractor on the *WCR 74 and WCR 33 Roundabout* project and will be returning the STBG funds to the NFRMPO for the project. Relford noted Desiree Moore from the Save Energy Coalition is assisting local agencies on developing community EJ plans and assisting with EJ planning. Weld County has been contacted by USDOT for questions about the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) grant which indicated the application is moving forward.

MEETING WRAP-UP

Final Public Comment – There was no final public comment.

Next Month’s Agenda Topic Suggestions – None this month.

Meeting adjourned at 2:08 PM.

Meeting minutes submitted by: AnnaRose Cunningham, NFRMPO Staff

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, as a hybrid meeting.